sector and others. Having regard to the representations received, Government have restored the excise duty exemption to certain goods like footwear upto a value of Rs. 50 per pair, umbrellas, corrugated boxes, rubber baloons, handkerchieves, shawls, soap made without the aid of power, towels and other madeups manufactured by handloom sector.

Consequent to withdrawal of excise duty exemptions, most of these commodities have been extended excise duty concessions available to small scale units.

Various measures for simplifying the excise procedure to SSI units have also been taken by the Government. These measures include removal of the requirement of registration of Department of Industry for availing of duty exemption, discontinuation of filing of declaration by units having turnover of less than Rs. 30 lakhs in a year and acceptance of private recordes of the SSI unit for excise purpose.

Certain changes have also been made in the brand name provision in the small scale schemes for excise duty concession so as to provide that a SSI unit can manufacture branded machinery parts for another person without payment of excise duty upto Rs. 30 lakhs in a year and without following any cumbersome procedure.

Customs duty reduction has been made in the budget so as to make key imported raw materials and capital goods available to domestic industry at reasonable cost. This will benefit small scale industry also.

(c) As the budget proposals aim at promoting industrial growth generally and the interest of small scale sector specially, these are likely to further encourage the growth of small scale sector.

Waiting list of telephones in Tamil Nadu

*311. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Tamil Nadu, district-wise and category-wise;

(b) by when the waiting list will be cleared; and

(c) the programme if any, chalked out for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) As on 30.6.1994, number of persons on the waiting list are 3,19,811. District-wise and category-wise details are as per Statement (*See* below)

(b) and (c) Annual Plan 1994-95 envisages provision of 1.52 lakh telephone connections. Efforts are also being made to lease additional equipment to increase the target to 2.9 lakh telephone connections to reduce the waiting list further. As per National Telecom. Policy telephones are to be provided on demand by 1.4.1997.

Statement

District-wise and category-wise waiting list in Tamil Nadu

Sl. No.	Name of Revenue District	Waiting List		
		OYT	NOYT(S)	NOYT(G)
1.	Ambedkar	313	526	10486
2.	Chengalpattu MGR	113	225	6659
3.	Chidambaranar	534	383	5648
4.	Coimbatore	2726	3320	46602
5.	Dharmapuri	200	332	3576

Sl. No.	Name of Revenue district	Waiting List		
		OYT	NOYT(S)	NOYT(G)
6.	Dindigul Anna	99	207	4724
7.	Kamarajar	199	380	4137
8.	Kanayakumari	267	527	6230
9.	Madurai	506	1344	14646
10.	Nagapatnam Q.M.	160	116	3161
11.	Nellai Kattapomman	42	204	4913
12.	Pasumpon	187	182	2448
13.	Periyar	76	1156	17653
14.	Pondicherry	412	732	5936
15.	Pudukkottai	24	102	2221
16.	Ramanathapuram	385	209	2941
17.	Salem	273	1435	21361
18.	Sambuvarayar	19	104	2283
19.	Thanjavur	474	518	9763
20.	The Nilgiris	130	121	3081
21.	Trichy	675	1138	19028
22.	Vallalar	283	283	5322
23.	Villupuram SSR	30	47	1190
24.	Madras	7509	2219	84356
		15636	15810	288365

Second Telugu News Bulletin from Hyderabad Doordarshan

*312. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some requests have been received from Andhra Pradesh Government for starting a second Telugu News Bulletin from Hyderabad Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon;

(c) whether Government have also been requested to upgrade 50 KW regional shortwave transmitter to 200 KW in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof with background for such requests;

(e) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has conveyed their unhappiness on undue delay in completion of work on a 5 KW relay transmitter at Nandyal and 10 KW trnasmitter in Kurnool due to cost escalation;

(f) whether the foundation stone of these transmitters was laid by the Hon'ble Prime Minister; and

(g) if so, the details thereof with action proposed to be taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Doordarshan has received requests from Hon'ble Chief Minsiter and Hon'ble Minister for Information and Public Relations, Government of Andhra Pradesh. It is presently extremely difficult to acceded to their requests in view of the resource constraints, shortage of manpower and pressure on transmission time.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However the upgradation of existing 50 KW MW